

Several months ago my husband and I stopped watching our local television news station, KGAN CBS 2 (Sinclair Broadcasting) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We were totally disgusted by KGAN's broadcasts of "The Point", Mark Hyman's biased views which were presented without ever offering a rebuttal or an opposing opinion. Much to my dismay the station also preempted the "60 Minutes" Wednesday night show with Dan Rather's second segment on Bush's military service.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.